

SOME BASEBALL BUNTS

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

There will be no end of the baseball fan until the frost, coming to settle upon the humble pumpkin and to cure the hay fever, also cools his ardor and restores him sufficiently to his right mind so that he can sit down quietly and talk with his wife about laying in the winter coal and sending the children to school. The production of baseball cranks is peculiar to no one section of the country. They flourish everywhere. Whether in Maine or California, as soon as a man begins to worry over the management of the home team and gets this responsibility firmly fixed in his mind, "he's a goner." Nothing will cure him but the end of the season and the first frost.

Baseball has a firm hold on its followers because of its variety. While innumerable matches have occurred in this country since it became the national pastime, it is safe to say that no two of these contests have been played exactly alike. There have been thousands of unexpected situations, many of them calling for instantaneous decision and quick action by the players. The ball player who can meet the crisis in a flash is said to have "a good head." Two evenly matched teams from rival towns in the middle West were fighting a hard battle one day last fall when an odd play occurred. In the last half of the ninth inning two men were out and a man on third. The excitement began to tell on the pitcher, and he threw a wild ball which struck wide of the plate and bounded into the netting in front of the grandstand, where it stuck about twenty feet from the ground. The runner on third made a dash for home to score the winning run. The fans on his side stood up for a mighty yell and then sat down in sudden disgust. The opposing catcher raced after the ball the instant it passed him, tore off his mask as he ran and, flinging it at the netting, dislodged the ball, caught it as it fell and threw the runner out at the plate. His team won the game in the next inning, and the madly enthusiastic fans sent him home bareheaded—his cap full of money.

A somewhat similar play was reported years ago when one of the champion Eastern teams was making a tour through the West. They had a game in one place where the grounds and surroundings were not altogether suitable for the playing of a match game. About forty feet back of first base there was a well covered by an old-fashioned suction pump. At a critical point in the game the third baseman threw low in the attempt to catch a runner at

first. The ball struck the bag and bounded into the air, coming down squarely in the jaws of the old pump and slipping down its throat. Before the runner was half way to second the quick-witted first baseman reached the well, and grasping the handle began to pump faster than if the grandstand were on fire. The rosters yelled and hooted in ecstasy at the sight of the star first baseman wrestling with the old pump, but he persevered and pumped the ball up just in time to throw the runner out at the plate.

"Danny" Hoffman is said to be the only player on record to kill a horse in a baseball game. That was a feat accomplished by him in a game played at Bridgeport the year before he joined the Athletics. During the game a buggy drawn by a faithful steed of creamy white, with occasional splashes of chestnut grey, was driven into the distant outfield. The driver thought himself out of the danger zone and settled down to enjoy the game from a safe distance. Danny's team was in a hole, and it was another such chance as when Casey went to bat. But Danny was not Casey that day. He smashed a vicious liner right at that old white horse. Straight as an arrow shot from a bow the ball sped for the head of the nag, and a thirteen-inch shell would not have put its lights out more effectively or speedily. The horse was buried with baseball honors and a stone erected, on which was inscribed: "Out for being hit with a batted ball."

A queer play was pulled off this year at the Polo grounds in New York, and is said to be the only one of its kind in the history of the game. The Cincinnati Reds were the visiting team. A batter, having struck out, was thrown out at first by the third baseman. He had struck at the ball three times. The last one was really a foul tip and struck the catcher on the shin, but the umpire did not hear it. The ball rolled in front of the plate, and thinking it a foul the catcher threw it to third, as some catchers have a habit of doing. The umpire called it a strike, third threw to first and the batter was out. This is the first time on record that a third baseman ever got an assist on a strike-out.

Triple plays by one man are almost as scarce as hen teeth. There are only a few instances where this feat has been accomplished. Napoleon Lajoie, in his book on baseball, asserts that up to 1906 there had been but two instances where one man pulled off a triple play. Paul Hines, now a clerk doing the most prosaic work in the Department of Agriculture, was the first player who ever executed a triple play. First Assistant Postmaster-General Hitchcock, the athlete of an athletic administration,

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tion, witnessed that play, and never tired of telling about it. Hines was playing center field with the Providence Grays in 1878. There was a man on second and one on third. A batter had made a short fly that looked like a hit. Hines ran forward and caught it and went on to second base, getting there before the player on second had time to recover it. Then, perceiving that the chip on third was almost at the home plate and was turning to recover third, Hines sprinted and beat his man there by a full yard. A quarter of a century elapsed before another triple play was ever made single-handed. It remained for Harvey O. Hines to share the honor with Hines. He was playing first base with Jersey City. A line drive came his way and he landed it and retired the man recently ensconced on first. Then he determined to tempt the fates in an effort to beat the man who had turned back to second while en route to third. Harvey was a sprinter for sure that day, and he got there first. Three other men, Murch of Manchester, New Hampshire, Schand, Portland, Oregon, and Mulholland of Sandusky, Ohio, are accredited with triple plays.

A notable game of ye olden time, as baseball history goes, was pulled off in 1877 at Manchester, New Hampshire. The Harvard nine was playing the local club. Inning after inning was played without a run, until there were twenty-four innings and still no runs. In this game Catcher Jim Tyng made the unprecedented record of thirty-one put outs and three assists. That game is still talked of around Harvard. Tyng was the first player in the baseball world to use a catcher's mask. This twenty-four-inning game was next to the longest in the history of baseball. The longest was played at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, July 18, 1901, between the Grand Forks and Fargo teams. There were twenty-five innings played in that game without either side scoring a point. The biggest score on record is that made at Buffalo in the sixties, when the Niagaras beat the Columbias 209 to 10.

One of the few women pitchers in this country played by a woman is Miss Carrie Meyer of Allentown, Pennsylvania. She has a pretty good record as a pitcher. Last year she pitched a game against Reading and was one of the biggest drawing cards of that section. A report of the game says that she did not rely on her speed, but that she pitched a puzzling out-curve that was too much for the other team. The opposing pitcher was a good one, and yet he was hit nine times against her seven. She played an errorless game. At the bat she brought in one run by making a timely single.

The records of baseball show but two real going women fans. One of them was Helen Dawtry, who is now Mrs. John Ward, her husband being a player with something of a record. The other is Mrs. Charles Wilson of New York. Her son Buster is the mascot of the Giants, and they have missed only two games in three years at the Polo grounds. Accompanied by her husband, who is a wealthy real estate man, they have seen about every important baseball event in the United States. "Hi-Hi" Dixwell, the "most unique citizen" of Boston for a generation with his shrill staccato voice, and old "Well-Well" of New York are about the most widely known fans of the masculine persuasion in America.

W. A. Cummings, the inventor of the curve in baseball pitching, is still living. He discovered the possibilities of the curve on Jarvis field, while playing against Harvard some forty years ago. He has written to his young friends that he will be there home coming week and may pitch a game just to show that forty years have not served to take all the curves out of his good right arm.

The movement now on foot to eliminate the spikes from baseball shoes because so many players are hurt with them had its counterpart in a successful movement for the elimination of the hitting of a player with a ball, some thirty years ago. When the game was young hitting the base runner with the ball was sanctioned, just as it had been in old-fashioned town ball. Many was the time that a player running bases would take the chances of being hit, and in fact would often try to draw the throw, realizing that the chances were many to one that he could dodge the ball. But there were men in the game who would wait until the runner got at close range and then throw dangerously hard. After several serious injuries had occurred there came the successful movement that put an end to the rule. Considering the damage they have done, the elimination of spikes has already been postponed too long.

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The term muck-raker gets thrown at us, but that's not us; we aim to be cheerful people. A child could sit in our lap and eat ice cream when we had our best clothes on—chocolate ice cream at that.

Muck-raking is only a by-product; here's a crowd of us, calling ourselves the United States, spending say \$100,000,000 a day, and 20% of it may be going to manufacture misery for humans: Bribery, indigestion, injustice, child labor, and general cussedness.

It's too much money—we can't afford it.

When our economical streak is on, we'd like to see some of it saved to spend for happiness. Just as if we saw a man cleaning off a horse with sizzling boiling oil, instead of water, we'd say: "Here, that oil cost money—besides, you're spoiling the horse."

If you'll take a dip into the OCTOBER EVERYBODY'S MAGAZINE, you'll soon see that we don't wear blue glasses. You're liable to bump over several mighty interesting things and a laugh or two that will do you good. Two things you mustn't miss: OWEN WISTER'S "Keystone Crime," and Parker H. Fillmore's lovely little tale of Margery's success when she started out to disgrace the family.

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